

(LIBERAL PARTY OF ALBERTA.)

Why the man who is a citizen first  
and a politician afterwards is support-  
ing the Rutherford Government. A  
record.....Edmonton, Saturday News  
Print, (1908).

Rutherford

Why the man who is a  
**Citizen First and a Politician  
Afterwards is Supporting  
the Rutherford Government**

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A RECORD MARKED BY INTEGRITY,  
BUSINESS ACUMEN, ENERGY AND  
RESOURCEFULNESS . . . . .

1908

## The Voice of the Press

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In this pamphlet are included a number of editorial articles which have recently appeared in the press of the Province and which in part indicate what it is that induces the man, who stands for the interests of Alberta before those of any party and who has been an intelligent observer of the course of public affairs during the past three and a-half years, to desire that the hands of the Rutherford Government should be strongly upheld at the polls on March 22. As will be noted, the articles are none of them written in the spirit of partizanship. They constitute an appeal to a man's reasonableness and public spirit. The Edmonton Saturday News, from which the first three are taken, is, as is well-known, a high-class weekly journal of comment, whose trenchant discussions of public men and measures have earned for it a reputation in all parts of the country. It has been very frank in its criticisms of Liberal policy and of Liberal candidates, as well as of those of the other party, and its opinions accordingly carry very great weight. It is an independent paper, but one which does not believe that it is in keeping with good citizenship to remain on the fence, when a straight issue is before the people, the decision in respect to which will have a powerful influence on the future of the Province or of the Dominion as a whole.

# What Alberta Needs Most and How those Needs are to be Supplied.

A province of unequalled resources, which has suffered from several disabilities.—The government's railway policy and the epoch-making change which it will bring about.—An old-timer, who has kept abreast of the times, tells what railways will mean.—The opening of the Western grain route.—How the conditions of the pork-packing industry affect development and how the government has risen to the occasion in order to place the farmer's industry on a good basis.—A thorough-going policy all along the line which will create a new Alberta . . . . .

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The Saturday News, as its readers know, has never been backward in expressing its belief that no other Province in the Dominion possesses so rich a natural endowment as Alberta. It has done what lay in its power in season and out of season to give those within the Provincial borders a proper

conception of the possibilities, that lie all about them and require only industry and intelligence to realize upon, as well as to acquaint the world at large with what we have to offer. At the same time one must recognize that in the past our progress has been much retarded by certain disabilities. In view of these, it is marvellous that so great an advance as that of the past seven or eight years has been made. The fact only serves to indicate to the man who has carefully studied the situation what we may expect when these disabilities are removed. The greatest of these are three in number.

Agriculture stands now and must stand for many years at the basis of our prosperity. The relation in which the pork industry stands to general agricultural activity was pointed out in last week's issue at length\*. The unsatisfactory condition has been responsible for a large part of the farmer's troubles, as was made very clear by the evidence given before the Pork Commission appointed by the Government, the report of which was presented and acted upon in the closing days of the last session of the Legislature. The establishment of a Government pork packing plant, in response to the demands of the farmers, will, there is every reason to believe, steady the market and give reasonable assurance of an adequate return to the producer. This will, in due course, by taking care of the coarse grains relieve the strain on our shipping facilities at the end of the season and improve the general conditions of the grain trade. Further than this, by bringing about a more general adoption of the principles of mixed farming, it will conserve the wealth of our soil and put agricultural operations generally on a more stable foundation.

In the second place there has been the tremendous disadvantage of the long haul of grain to Fort William. Following the reduction of the C. P. R. rate to the Pacific Coast, the Government lost no time in calling a conference of the representatives of all the interests in the Province, and in urging upon them the necessity of taking full advantage of this new western route. By throwing its whole influence behind the movement, it has been able to direct public attention to it to such an extent that there is no doubt a large

\*See the succeeding article in this pamphlet.

part of the Albertan crop of 1909 will be sent to Liverpool by way of Vancouver. A saving of no less than six cents on every bushel will be brought about immediately and with the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Panama Canal this sum will be largely increased. What this means to the grain producer, and through him to those in every other calling in Province, it is unnecessary to dwell upon.

In the third place, the people of Alberta have suffered through lack of adequate railway facilities within the boundaries of the Province. Here, too, we find the Government making a move which will introduce a completely new order of things. The Saturday News has for many months back been repeating that the responsibility for relieving the internal railway situation lay with the Provincial administration and that it must rise to the occasion and see that the proper means of transportation were provided. This it has done in a manner which should provoke the enthusiasm and stimulate the pride and confidence of every citizen. The policy which on the day before the Legislature prorogued the Premier enunciated will prove a most complete and efficient instrument in bringing about a much-desired result. If no obstacle is placed in the way of its being carried out, if the ensuing elections show that the people of the Province are anxious to have those who inaugurated this policy carry it to a successful issue, all parts of Alberta will receive railway facilities that are in keeping with their resources and on terms which, especially when we make comparison with what other parts of the Dominion have had to pay for such privileges, could not be better. In the three and a-half years that the Government of Mr. Rutherford has been in existence, it has been able to accomplish a very great deal along many different lines, that has contributed to the up-building of the Province. But without fear of being accused of indulging in superlatives by the man who looks at these matters from an unprejudiced business-like standpoint, we can say that this railway bargain is its crowning achievement, and will be that for which it will be best remembered by posterity.

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What railways mean to any country and to this part of the West in particular, was admirably set forth in an article

in last week's Saturday News by a man, whose experience of Alberta dates back a quarter of a century. He is not a politician, but he has his interests tied up in the Province. He knows what it needs most and he believes in giving due credit to those who have succeeded in giving assurance that its needs will be supplied.

It is well worth while quoting part of what he had to say:

"The railroad programme that is commencing to develop," he wrote, "give a dim vista to some of those who know, and who have travelled the country over in the old days on horseback, of what may be coming, judging by the development of other portions of the earth's surface. Time alone will show, time alone, with the assistance of railroads, will prove that the dreams of some old-timers are to come true.

"Have any of you ever stood on undeveloped portions of the Eastern States? They are scarce, but occasionally we chance on a piece of virgin woodland, with trees growing up among the rocks. On ground to be cultivated, these rocks were piled into fences, the trees cut down and taken away before early settlers on the Atlantic could gain a foothold or gain any ground whatever in which to sow their produce. Try a little to imagine, the labor and the patience and perseverance involved before any result was realized. Yet they succeeded. Compare our lot to-day in Alberta. All we require is a few posts, some wire, a team of horses and a plow and in a year or two we can have a large area of good grain. We can do in two years more than the early settlers on the Atlantic could do in 20 to 30 years, with far less labor and little or no hardship. This country as a farming country is already made. All we require now is the steel track and the iron horse to haul our produce as rapidly as possible to market.

"The theory that railroads should follow settlement is a bad back number and should never have been propagated. How long will it take to settle a country well traversed with railroads. Why, just as long as it will take for people to load their effects in cars and get off at places they have chosen.

"The loss of time, the loss of price on every bushel of

grain, the added price to every pound of necessities hauled by the farmer long distances from the ranch to town, and from town to the ranch, are so much loss to the nation. It is wasted effort, unproductive toil blown away by the wind.

"All this toil, all this energy conserved, redoubled and stored up in greater profits, will rapidly multiply our savings and our resources. A large proportion of visitors who now pass on or leave us to ourselves, if we have better means of transport, more advanced civilization that comes with it will stay with us to swell the number of residents in Alberta, become producers and swell the volume of trade in town and country.

"Why this country has been allowed to lie so long undeveloped is a gigantic mystery. Why so few have heretofore seen that inadequate means of transport was the cause of the country being slow and behind the times is hard to fathom.

"We should now be on the road to progress at a ten times greater rate than ever before and our development should increase in speed to a ratio not yet dreamed of by many, especially by those who are physically incapable of seeing beyond their own immediate surroundings. The development that will accrue in Alberta by means of proper transport will be a revelation not yet dreamed of.

"Such a very small portion of the arable land has yet been turned over, just a patch here and there, yet the output is rising. Multiply this output many many fold and you may arrive at some computation of the money that will come in as the produce goes out. We are only commencing, just learning how. Business now is only an infant in arms to what it will soon be, with railroads running in and out, up and down in all directions. It has been a long time waiting. We have had our ups and downs.

"We have put in our last dollar, made, many of us, our last spasmodic kick, but the hour is at hand and the railroads are coming and we may yet make enough to keep us out of the poor house in our old age. There was but one salvation, there was but one chance for many who have toiled, hungered or waited for many, many years—it was the railroad. The father of the family now sees some daylight, the lonely

woman on the range now sees a chance of some variety in her dismal life of toil, the railroad is coming and with it most things that make life worth living to most people."

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To come to details, the Government has entered into arrangements with three companies, the Canadian Northern, the Grand Trunk Pacific, and the Alberta and Great Waterways railways, by which 1761 miles of road will be constructed in the immediate future. Work is to be commenced at once. The C.N.R. and G.T.P. lines are to be completed by the end of 1911 and that on the A. and G.W. within four years. When this programme of construction is carried out, aided by the lines which the C.P.R., the Great Northern, and possibly other companies will construct on their own initiative, will be well provided with railway facilities as it has been lacking in the past. An enumeration of the different projects which are thus assured indicates how well every part of Alberta will be served.

The G.T.P. undertakes to build two lines. The first will be from a point on the main line, somewhere near Wainwright, to Calgary and on to the southern boundary of the Province, somewhere near Coutts, a distance of 451 miles. From this line, at a point between Calgary and Lethbridge, a branch will be built to McLeod, about fifty miles in length. It is the Canadian Northern which will provide the greatest mileage under the policy, 920 in all. One branch goes in a northwesterly direction from Edmonton a distance of 50 miles. This is the beginning of an extension to Lesser Slave Lake and the Peace River. The extension of the Morinville branch to Athabasca Landing is provided for, a distance of 65 miles. That it will be one of the first items on the programme completed is altogether likely in view of the large amount of traffic which now goes by stage in that direction from Edmonton. A branch from this line will be built in an easterly direction a distance of 40 miles from a point north of Morinville. From the main line of the C.N.R. an extension will be made in a northwesterly direction to Whitford Lake which will ultimately rejoin the main line at Bruderheim.

So much for the C.N.R. lines north of Edmonton. The greatest undertaking of this company is the construction of



a road south from Strathcona to Calgary and on to Lethbridge, 355 miles in all. The route of this will be to the east of the C. and E. It will have two branches: the first from Bittern Lake to Vegreville, 50 miles; the second from near the crossing of the Little Bow river to Macleod and on to the southerly boundary of the Province, 110 miles. From this last branch will run out from a point between McLeod and the crossing of the Belly river, a line to the westerly boundary of the Province, 65 miles. From near Content, westerly through Red Deer, a line will be built for a distance of 60 miles. From a point between Cardston and the southerly boundary of the Province, on one of the lines above specified, a branch will make its way to the westerly boundary opening up the very beautiful district of the Waterton lakes.

The C.N.R. also proposes to compete for the tourist trade to Banff and will build from Calgary out to the National Park.

The Alberta and Great Waterways Company is undertaking a single line, but one of the most important of all, that to Fort McMurray from Edmonton, a distance of 350 miles. Not only will it open up a very rich country but it will place the Province in touch with one of the great waterways of the world. From Fort McMurray there is only one obstacle in the way of a steamer's travelling direct to the Arctic ocean, a distance of nearly 1800 miles. This obstacle is imposed by the rapids at Fort Smith, around which a tramway but a few miles long will have to be utilized. Once the railway to Fort McMurray is constructed Alberta will be in a position to develop the wonderful potentialities of its northern half and of the Mackenzie basin which lies beyond. The Mackenzie, it should not be forgotten, is as great a stream as the Mississippi, while the Liard and the Peace can hold their own with the greatest tributaries of the "Father of Waters." Less than a decade hence a commerce of large proportions will have arisen along these rivers, now utilized only by the fur trader, while summer trips to the Arctic, with magnificent scenery en route and the sight of the Midnight Sun at the end of the journey, will attract tourists from all over the face of the globe.

Is it any wonder that the blood is stirred by the prospect of the great changes which all this will bring about, not

away in the distant future, the waiting for which has made the hearts of so many old-timers sick, but so soon that even the oldest of us can hope to see the dream of long years realized?

And on what terms has the Government been able to secure this assurance of what the Province most needs? They are the most advantageous, from the public standpoint, that any new country has ever succeeded in obtaining. Look over the history of railway bargaining on the part of the Dominion and of the other Provinces of Confederation. Many millions of dollars in cash subsidies have been granted, many million acres of the public domain alienated, in order to secure adequate transportation facilities. But Alberta secures what it needs without a cent of actual expenditure and with the certain prospect, if the territory comprised within the Province is as rich in natural resources as we have every reason to believe it is, that not a cent of money will ever have to be spent. The bonds of the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific are guaranteed to the extent of \$13,000 a mile. As security for this, the Province has a first mortgage on all the lines being constructed and a covenant guarantee from the companies, the result of which would be that their whole systems throughout the Dominion would have to become bankrupt before Alberta would be called upon to make good any loss to the bondholders. As a matter of fact, the only situation in which this would occur, would be tantamount to national bankruptcy. This being the case, Alberta's security could not possibly be better.

As for Alberta and the Great Waterways Company, the guarantee of \$20,000 a mile, with \$400,000 for terminals. The character of the country through which the line will pass and the pioneer nature of the undertaking, made this increase necessary. Full assurance of the financial capabilities of the company has been given. The chief promoter is Mr. W. R. Clarke, a prominent citizen of Kansas City. On this line as on the others a first mortgage is taken. In addition, the Province secures the right of purchase and the control of rates. The C.N.R. and G.T.P. franchises, being constructed under Dominion charters, have their rates under the jurisdiction of the railway commission.

The bargain, as a whole, could not be a better one and emphasizes in a very striking manner what has been demonstrated so frequently already, the business acumen and the far-sightedness of those who negotiated on behalf of the Province. A Government cannot make the people of a country prosperous. There must be in the first place the natural resources to work upon and the intelligence and the energy to take advantage of these. But those who direct public policy have an important function to perform in taking such legislative and administrative action as will aid development. We have noted some of the respects in which this Governmental aid was required and have indicated what strikes us as the thorough-going manner in which the administration of Mr. Rutherford has risen to its responsibilities. For its achievements, the Saturday News believes that it is entitled to the fullest credit and thinks that the people of Alberta should show their appreciation in no uncertain fashion now that an appeal is being made to them for a renewal of the confidence which they manifested in so striking a fashion at the general contest.—The Saturday News.

## A RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

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How the various departments of the government have kept faith with the people.—The government pork packing plant and what it will accomplish. — Alberta's satisfactory condition. — The reasonableness of the member for Rosebud.—How he represents the opinion of the average man who is not a strong partizan.

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In his budget speech, delivered during the last week of the final session of Alberta's first Legislature, the Premier discussed with considerable minuteness the work of the various departments of his Government. That of the Attorney-General, he pointed out had had an immense responsibility on its shoulders in the preparation of the great volume of statute law that had been created since the establishment of the Province, in the consolidation of that in existence at the time of that event, in the establishment of a new judicial system, in taking over and re-organizing the work of the land titles offices, and in the general administration of justice throughout the rapidly expanding area of settlement. As an evidence of the satisfactory result of the department's efforts to secure the simplification and cheapening of legal procedure the Premier called attention to the fact that the revenue from this source had increased over one hundred per cent since the inauguration of the new order of things. The appointment of bailiffs

and process issuers throughout the Province had proven a great inconvenience and had been responsible for keeping down the cost of litigation. That the Premier's tribute to the department of the Attorney-General was well deserved anyone who takes the trouble to study its record of increasing activity during the past three and a-half years and notes the thorough-going efficiency which at all stages it has displayed will be free to admit.

The Department of Public Works has during the past year expended on main roads close to \$250,000. Of the importance of this branch of public activity to the development of the country there can be no question. Three hundred and eighty-four new bridges were built and one hundred and forty-five repaired. Twenty-five ferries have been installed. Ten large public buildings have been in course of construction, the most important of which is of course the new Parliament house in Edmonton. The expansion of the telephone system has gone on steadily, 885 miles of line having been built during 1908. The total expenditure up to date on the system has been \$1,380,219.48 and the revenue for last year was \$212,175. This showing, it might be mentioned, has been considered sufficiently good to justify an average reduction of rates of twenty-five per cent.

Coming to the Department of Education, the Premier cited an instructive lot of figures to demonstrate the high standards that were being maintained in the schools of the province. No one who has had experience with the schools of Alberta and those in other parts of the continent needs to be reassured as to the superiority of the former. Mr. Rutherford's statistics show what underlies this. For instance in Ontario out of 5124 teachers only 143 hold first-class certificates, while in Alberta out of 1210, the total is 214. The work of organizing new districts has gone on steadily in the past three years. On Sept. 1, 1905, there were 562 districts in existence; on Jan. 1, 1908, there were 1070. During the present year it is estimated that \$338,000 will be spent on education.

The Premier's statement of the manner in which the proceeds of the special educational tax have been distributed clears away some misconceptions. The idea that a large

expenditure was being made on the university to the detriment of the common schools is prevalent to a certain extent. As a matter of fact the university is being supported wholly by 20 per cent of this special tax, derived from land outside the school districts (homesteads being exempted). The net proceeds of the tax were a trifle over \$98,000. Of this the university obtained \$19,626.23. The Hudson's Bay Company contributed \$24,143.08 of the tax so that that corporation alone more than supported the university.

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As to the general financial condition of the province, a surplus on the year's work of \$69,669.83 was reported. In other years all expenditure has been met out of current revenue, no charge being made to capital account. With the launching out on a great undertaking, such as the telephone system has now developed into, it was impossible to continue this, so that in this year's statement appears the item of \$1,380,000.24, charged to capital account. This is, of course, a debt on the part of the Province, but it stands for a great asset, that will constantly increase in value. It would be satisfactory if the province could continue its business from year to year without placing obligations upon posterity. But to do so would obviously require a retrenchment of activity which would be neither for our present nor our future good. A private enterprise, which is going to amount to anything, cannot expect to meet its requirements out of current revenue. It must leave much to be paid off in the future. So long as there is something permanent to show for its expenditure, there is no need to worry about its financial condition.

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The striking feature of the debate on the budget was Mr. Robertson's reference to his companion during their unique experience as the sole representatives of the Opposition for four sessions. During the past three months, said Mr. Robertson, there had been a change in the attitude of the member for Rosebud. "The reasons for the change," he added, "it is not necessary for me to point out to the members of this Legislature. They can draw their own conclusions."

Mr. Hiebert, when it came to his turn to speak, asked for an explanation, when Mr. Robertson said: "I did not intend

to convey the meaning that Mr. Hiebert was purchased or anything like that. If I left that impression on the House, I wish to apologise to the member for Rosebud."

But what other impression could have been created? Who will say that the words, as they stand, do not convey an insinuation? They are strictly in line with what is being said on the street. We hear a lot of talk about the desirability of assuming an independent attitude on public questions and the folly of being bound by party ties, but just as soon as a party man does shape his course according to what he considers the public interest and without regard to the immediate future of his party, he is exposed to the attacks that Mr. Hiebert is now being made the object of. The member for Rosebud has since 1905 discharged a very trying duty to the province and to his political associates in a manner which reflects credit upon him, particularly when it is considered that he was wholly new to the responsibilities of his situation. Now after being in close touch with the government's work, realizing to what extent that work is redounding to the advantage of the province and how much it should be able to accomplish if it is allowed to carry out its programme for the next four or five years, he comes out frankly and says that he hopes it will be returned. His attitude is that of the ordinary man whose welfare is tied up with that of Alberta, and who is a citizen first and a politician afterwards. Mr. Hiebert knows better than most men that for provincial purposes the Conservative party has been out of business for nearly four years and that any opposition which is being offered to the government is being raised simply for the purposes of opposition.

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In connection with the work of the Department of Agriculture, after reciting what it had accomplished in its different branches and the uniform success which had attended its efforts, the Premier announced the government's intention to go ahead and carry out the report of the pork commission.

As our readers are already aware, we believe that the carrying out of this enterprise will mean an immense advance in prosperity for the agriculturist of the Province. The unsatisfactory condition of the pork producing industry has been at the basis of most of the farmer's troubles and, if as we are confident it will, this government plan proves the

means of steadying the market and giving him a reasonable assurance of an adequate return to his effort, it will accomplish a very great deal towards inducing general prosperity throughout the Province.

The same plan will be followed as in connection with the government creameries, and anyone who has studied the working of these know what a large source of wealth they have been. The history of the creameries should go a long way towards reassuring those who fear that this new move will have a bad effect upon private capital invested in the industry. The private creameries have not only not been killed by those carried on under Government auspices but have prospered greatly and there is little doubt that their prosperity is due very largely to the general influence exerted by their so-called rivals. With the pork industry in good shape, that of grain-raising will also be improved. The coarser grains will be turned into pork and only the better grades exported. This is bound to improve the market and the conditions under which marketing is done at the close of the season. By relieving the pressure on the elevators, it will do much towards solving the general elevator problem.

The agitation for a government plant has been conducted by the most intelligent, reasonable and far-sighted farmers in the Province, who have known what they want and have gone about securing it in a way to win the respect of all classes. The commission, on the unanimous report of which the government is acting, consisted of Mr. Bower, the President of the United Farmers of Alberta, and one of the best types of men that organized agriculture has brought to the fore in this country, Mr. R. A. Wallace of High River, a man of long acquaintance with general conditions and with public life in the west, and Mr. A. G. Harrison, the secretary of the Board of Trade, whose keen business acumen and large acquaintance with the problems before this Province are well known. They have gone into the subject very carefully, making investigation at different points throughout the continent and visiting various sections of the province, and the verdict which they have given is one that can be quite safely followed. The Government is to be warmly congratulated on having followed up their advice by speedy action.

—The Saturday News



## The Position of the Opposition

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Is it safe to entrust it, in its present condition, with the responsibilities of government? A reorganization process must first be carried out. . . .

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Such criticism as The Saturday News has to make of the Red Deer platform is not on the ground of the actual measures which it recommends. Two or three are objectionable, but the majority will be heartily subscribed to by a large proportion of the people of the Province. Its principal weakness lies in the very patent fact that it has been elaborated simply for the sake of opposition. The general policy of the Government is not seriously challenged in any particular. That it has done well for the Province and given us the business-like and far-sighted administration that we required in the initial stages of Alberta's growth is admitted by practically all, when you come to discuss the situation privately with them. Its only real opponents are those who take up the cudgels against it for personal or sectional reasons. How a change at the present juncture would be an advantage is difficult to conceive. We have only to consider what those in power have done, but by whom they would be replaced in event of a change. There is no reason why the Conservative party in Alberta, as elsewhere, should not be in a position to assume governmental responsibilities. No party has a monopoly of ability for administration. But for nearly four years it has been practically out of business, so far as Provincial politics goes, and before it would be safe for it to take over

the reins, a general building-up process within the ranks will have to be gone on with. If the proper man is secured for the leadership, he will have a great work to do in commencing this work of reorganization. But another parliamentary term at least should pass before he and those associated with him could safely be entrusted to take over the duties of government.

How widely shared is this view is evident from an article in the Strathcona Chronicle, a paper whose loyalty to Conservative principles will hardly be questioned, which appeared last week

"The Government appear," says the Chronicle, "to have stamped the dual opposition to such an extent by their railway policy and their amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, that Mr. Hiebert appears to have become terrified by his own opposition, while Mr. Robertson is dallying over the extraordinary annexation idea in his most dilletante manner. That the Conservative party throughout the Province is in a healthy condition the result of the last Dominion election showed clearly, but that the Opposition in the Provincial House is in a state of political extremity is also clear. A Moses is badly wanted to lead the party to the promised land of power. Whether he will arise or not on this occasion the coming election will show, but as far as our political vision goes there seems to be a striking absence of bullrushes behind which the prophet might be concealed." —Saturday News.

# AN ADMINISTRATIVE TRIUMPH

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How the government's successful inauguration and management of a provincial telephone system has helped the cause of public ownership.—A wonderful record of three years of activity . . . . .

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Since the setting aside of the Province Alberta has had a Government of business men, who have brought to the discharge of their public duties the same qualities as have enabled them to make a success of their private affairs. Their sound practical instincts are well illustrated in connection with their telephone policy. They lost no time in formulating it after making quite sure of their ground and once they decided what line it should take, they proceeded to carry out their plans with an energy and efficiency, which if applied to all public ownership schemes would disabuse the minds of the opponents of that principle of their prejudice against it. Little or nothing is gained by all the theorizing that goes on about public ownership. It is a good thing in many instances provided that the proper individuals can be found to administer the utilities that the state takes over and there is reason to believe, after studying the circumstances of each case, that under private ownership the people are being made to pay more than they should for the services being rendered or that these services are inadequate to their needs.

When the administration presided over by Mr. Rutherford took office, it soon became convinced that better telephone facilities should be afforded the Province. A large proportion of those coming into this part of the West were already accustomed to the use of the instrument, and if they found it impossible to secure the service that they desired, at a reasonable outlay, it was bound to be a cause of dissatisfaction. At the beginning of 1906 all the facilities in Alberta were the local exchanges in the larger cities and towns and the Bell line extending from Edmonton to Lethbridge. The charges were high and the service poor. Those in the rural districts were not thought of at all. In the older Provinces the Bell Company had given constant trouble and was undoubtedly a very cruel as well as unpopular monopoly.

After going into the question very carefully the Government came to the conclusion that the telephone was an enterprise which from its very nature was well adapted for state control. It examined the record of the Bell corporation and it saw how little disposed it was to extend its lines in keeping with the growth of the Province. At the very first session of the legislature it accordingly secured a grant for the purpose of commencing a Government system. It believed that it was a good policy to do this before concluding any arrangement for the purchase of existing lines. The Bell people would thus be brought to realize how thoroughly the Province was in earnest and the hands of the administration would be strengthened in future negotiations with them. How well calculated this move was the course of subsequent events has clearly proven.

By the end of 1907 the Government had built no less than 544 miles of line and acquired 53 miles besides. As time went on and the construction policy proceeded with unabated vigor the prospects for a favorable settlement with the Bell Company became all the while brighter. Less than a year ago a bargain was finally made, by which the entire Bell system within the Province was purchased at an average cost of \$143 per phone. Shortly before that the Company had sold out to the Manitoba Government and had secured \$218 per phone. So much for having shrewd business capacity in

high public places. It pays better than glib-tongued oratory of the kind that is so frequently the test of fitness for political advancement.

In the meanwhile the work of reaching out into new parts of the Province proceeded rapidly and by the beginning of 1909 the Government was operating close to 1500 miles of telephone lines and making it pay so well that it was able as a New Year's present to announce a reduction in the rates which amounts to an average to about 25 per cent. The demand for extensions is coming from all sections. Especial encouragement is being given to rural lines. A low rate has been quoted for these of but \$15 per year, the stipulation being that there must be one phone for every mile. In some instances, so much is the privilege prized, farmers have paid for three phones in order to secure connection with their market town, which would enable them to market their products so much more advantageously as well as prove a general source of convenience.

All this has taken place, let it be remembered, in less than three years. What may we not expect in three years more? Who can say that such development has not and will not make Alberta a much more attractive place of abode, making not only for a more contented body of people at present, but offering additional inducements to the great body of prospective settlers from other lands that the immediate future is sure to bring.

As an administrative achievement, the telephone policy is bound to stand out in the history of representative institutions.—Lethbridge Herald.

# ALBERTA'S ENVIABLE FINANCIAL POSITION

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How the mass of the people have been kept free of taxation burdens and the province's credit raised to a high-water mark. — Not a single instance in which there has been even a suspicion that public trust has been betrayed . . . . .

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The question of finance stands at the basis of all administration and when we consider the record of the Government of the Province we must judge it, not altogether by the details of its expenditure, but by the manner in which it has kept these in the proper relation to the means at its disposal. It is not enough for a Government to be assured that a certain outlay is in the public interests. Many a project has to be turned down because the means are not available for giving the aid that is asked. Its task is to determine the relative importance of every proposition that comes to its notice and to keep the total sum that it spends within the resources at its disposal. The only alternative is to burden the people with debt and this the administration that will shortly appeal to the electors for a renewal of its confidence has steadfastly declined to do.

In adhering to this policy they have taken a leaf out of the experience of other parts of this continent where at one

time conditions were the same as now in Alberta. At a recent convention of the farmers of the Province held in Edmonton, two prominent delegates, one from the North and the other from the South of the Province, described what it was that had induced them to leave their old homes, in two of the great states of the Union. What did more than anything else to determine them to move was the fact that in the country to the South they were becoming so over-burdened with taxation that they found it impossible to make substantial progress in their calling and they could not help being attracted to a country where the Government levied so light a toll, comparatively, upon them. This is a condition of things which the Rutherford administration is intent upon doing everything possible to continue.

Under the Autonomy Act the Province was given liberal terms by the Dominion, which were improved upon to a very considerable extent by the supplementay arrangement which Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Cross were able to effect at the Ottawa conference of 1907. Some critics have declared that Alberta made a large sacrifice in not insisting on having public lands within her borders turned over to the provincial administration. Such a contention will not hold water for a minute and is made simply for the purpose of securing a political cry, when few that will receive any attention are at all available. The fact that when the Autonomy Bill was introduced some of the most prominent opponents of the Dominion Government from the other Provinces raised the cry that the new members of Confederation were being treated too liberally, and that in Manitoba the Conservative Premier and his colleagues have claimed that their Province was not being treated as well as those to the West, should be sufficient answer to those who object to the financial terms with which Alberta began her career and which the men who took over the control of her affairs at the start believed were quite just and fair.

It is unnecessary to go into the question of whether the control of the lands or the cash subsidy in lieu thereof is to be preferred under existing conditions. But it might be asked what would be done with the lands if we had them. They are at present being administered by the Dominion, not for revenue purposes, but in order to induce immigration.

If they were in the possession of the Province, it would either have to abandon this immigration policy and dispose of the land to provide funds for general purposes, or continue that policy and impose taxation to make up the sum which we now receive under the terms of anatomy. We need immigrants and we need all the revenue at present at our disposal. But if we had insisted on keeping the lands, we would have had to suffer the loss in either one way or the other.

Where so many merely human agencies have to be trusted in the handling of public funds it is hardly surprising, no matter how honest and watchful those at the head of affairs are, if some money is wrongly diverted. But in the case of the present administration not a single charge has been made, let alone proven, that a public servant has betrayed his trust. All this should be a matter of pride to every citizen of the Province. Our credit in the money markets could not be better. The prestige which follows such a record redounds to our advantage in a host of ways. The best kind of settler cannot help being attracted by the clean financial sheet which we are able to show. We stand in a position to realize to the full the opportunities that the wonderful years immediately ahead of us are certain to offer. Are those who are responsible for all this not entitled to the thanks of those whom they have been serving, and would it not be a suicidal policy on the part of the electors of the Province not to continue in office for another four years, those who have given such service?

The people of Alberta are not strong politicians. Party names do not count for much with them. But they know what they want in the way of public policy, and can be depended upon to show their appreciation of the men who have demonstrated their capacity for directing the affairs of the Province. With most Albertans the casting of a vote is a straight business proceeding and recognizing this the Government, with a record which speaks for itself behind it, can appeal to them with absolute confidence.—Calgary News.



## ALBERTA AND THE C.P.R.

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How the relations of the government with that corporation illustrate the advantage of having men of integrity and resource in high places.—Will the electors recognise service rendered them to the extent that the shareholders of a railway recognize that which their officials have given them? . . . . .

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The place which the Canadian Pacific Railway has held in the development of Western Canada will prove an interesting subject for the historian. No one will dispute for a moment, the courage and the far-sightedness of the men who undertook to put the enterprise through. It is easy enough to be wise after the fact, but a quarter century and more ago, even the most optimistic could not have looked forward to the progress which the last decade has seen on these Western plains; yet no sooner had the work of opening up the country by means of the railway fairly begun than it came to be realized that the boon of communication with the outside world had been paid for at a tremendous price. But for the C. P. R. or an undertaking along similar lines, there would have been no Canadian West, but so intent have its directors been to reap the full advantage of the bargain which they made with the Dominion that there can be little doubt that in many respects they have retarded the development which the corporation sprang into existence to promote. Nor can they

be fairly blamed for exacting their pound of flesh. 'Those who criticize the C. P. R. and its officials often fail to consider that the latter do not hold their positions for the purpose of serving the Canadian public. Their object is simply to provide dividends for their shareholders. It may suit the policy of capital from time to time to appeal to patriotic motives in order to that it may gain certain ends, but as a matter of fact it knows no international or Provincial boundaries. All that it demands is as large a return on the money invested as possible and the means by which this is obtained, matters not in the slightest. A large part of the stock of the C. P. R. is held outside the Dominion. What interests have any of the holders of this stock in the building up of the country or in securing the good opinion of its citizens, except where these results mean additions to the company's revenues? And how many Canadian shareholders would sacrifice a possible increase in their C.P.R. dividends in order that the public at large may be benefited?

It is hardly fair, therefore, to denounce those in positions of authority in the C. P. R. in the language that is sometimes adopted. They occupy the positions that they do for a distinct purpose, which has nothing directly do with the public good. They serve the shareholders and if it were their duty to be as active on behalf of the public, they would in all probability give quite as good service. It is the day's work with them. Once we recognize all this, we shall be able to proceed to a proper consideration of how the general interests may best be promoted in such matters.

It is evident that nothing can be gained by appealing to the public spirit of such a corporation. The only salvation is to place in control of our Government men who can be depended upon to be ever on the alert to see that such commercial bodies as that of which we have been speaking, have their unfair gains at the expense of the public reduced to a minimum. A corporation, once it finds its profits considerably reduced by a popular body very frequently finds means of making it unpleasant at election time for those who have been so insistent in their efforts to promote the interests of the public at the expense of the company's

shareholders. It does not shew itself in the open, but its influence in many constituencies is often decisive. Those people who claim that a government is always safe in attacking an unpopular corporation do not know whereof they speak.

The truth of all this has been demonstrated over and over again in Western Canada, as elsewhere, and it accordingly becomes of the utmost importance to the people of Alberta, with another Provincial election looming up in the not very far distant future that they should consider what attitude those whom they placed when the Province started on its career have assumed towards the most powerful corporation doing business in the country, the Canadian Pacific Railway. How, as the result of the bargain which the Dominion made in the early eighties, the C. P. R. has during all these years escaped taxation is an old story, which has been told over and over again and has exasperated Westerners more and more as time has gone on. The situation immediately came under the consideration of the young Government of Alberta. The average cabinet would have argued that there was no use crying over spilled milk, that it was a pity the Dominion authorities could not have looked further ahead, but that only time could supply a remedy. But it was no ordinary administration that took office four years ago this coming fall. We make this statement quite confidently and believe that everyone who studies the record which it has made in a dozen different fields will admit that this is the case. Mr. Rutherford and his colleagues were not willing to accept the statement that every resource had been exhausted. The Attorney-General's department went to work and in a few months made a genuine discovery. They found that though the main line of the C. P. R. could not be taxed there was nothing to prevent the taxing of the branch lines. At the first session this was provided for and as a result \$60,000 a year has been going into the treasury of the Province instead of into the strong box of the C. P. R. For a score of years other Governments had contented themselves with denunciations. They did not do the C. P. R. any harm or the people any good. It has been different, however, with this, one of the first acts of an administration composed of shrewd business men backed up by expert legal training.

This measure forced the C. P. R. to bear a share of the burden of taxation, from which it had in the past wholly escaped. But it is still free in a large measure and the Government is preparing now to try conclusions with it on a larger scale. In Manitoba some years ago an attempt was made to tax the company's lands on the ground that they were only exempt for twenty years after the grant was made. The Company claimed that the exemption continued for twenty years after the patent for them was received and won its case. Recently, however, the Attorney-General announced that his department was preparing a brief which would challenge the C. P. R. exemption claim. Several new points of importance it is said, have been discovered, and so impressed is the Attorney-General with the strength of the case, which will be presented, that it will be carried through to the Privy Council if necessary. In view of the success which he and his associates have had with similar ventures in the past four years, it would not surprise a great many people if they should succeed in this new undertaking, large though it may seem to an outsider for a young Province to venture upon. It is at least worth the effort.

That the Government had fully discharged the very necessary functions which we set forth at the beginning of this article as devolving upon it in this connection, no one can fail to admit. That it has aroused antagonism as a result of its policy may also be taken for granted. The duty of the people is to become acquainted with the facts and to give it the support which it needs if it is to persevere in the course on which it has set out. Will they show themselves as appreciative of the services of the men who have been looking after their interests as the shareholders of a successful railway corporation are of those of the men to whom they have entrusted a similar duty? In the answer to this question is involved a fairly definite test of the efficiency of our form of government, and of the public spirit of our citizens, by which alone our institutions can be made to fulfil their purpose.—Calgary News.

# The Government and the Farmer

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The magnitude of the task which the department of agriculture has had to face and the thorough-going manner in which it has grappled with it.

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It is estimated that about 100,000,000 acres of the land comprised within the boundaries of Alberta is fit for cultivation, which is less than two thirds of the total. Up to the present one per cent of this area has been broken. These are striking figures and serve to indicate the importance of the task which the Government of the Province has in inducing settlement and in promoting the prosperity of those who are doing the real work of empire-building by going upon the land and engaging in the various forms of agricultural activity. A glance over the reports of the Department of Agriculture shows how energetically and intelligently it has grappled with the great problems that have been set before it.

Those who do not understand conditions in Alberta will fail to grasp the magnitude of the undertaking which confronted the Minister of Agriculture and his assistants when they entered upon the duties of their posts in the autumn of 1906. They had to lay their own foundations almost entirely. Completely new staffs had to be organized which could receive but little guidance from the experience of other Provinces, for the reason that agriculture in Alberta has to be carried along on quite different lines in most

instances from those which are followed in other parts of the continent. In fact it was only a year or so before the Department came into existence that people awoke to the fact that the bulk of its area was a farming country at all. The discovery of its agricultural possibilities and the consequent decline of the large ranches are among the outstanding features of Canadian development within the past five or six years. That its soil may be made as productive as that of any other portion of the globe is now a certainty, but this also is certain that in order to take full advantage of it the adoption of methods of cultivation that are largely peculiar to the Province are necessary.

To promote technical farm education along the proper lines has heretofore, been one of the main objects of the Department's endeavor. Farmers' Institutes have been conducted at which addresses have been given by those who have thoroughly investigated the various problems that the Alberta farmer has to face. Grain judging schools have been held at different points and the doctrine of pure seed has been preached in season and out of season. An efficient weed inspector in conjunction with subordinate officials in different districts has been the means of ridding the land to a very great extent of what must prove a tremendous incubus on agricultural operations. The need of this work is very great in a country where so many who are new to the experience take up farming and a great deal of carelessness in this particular is bound to appear. The agricultural fairs have received liberal aid and expert judges have been supplied, the excellent results of whose work have been already shown.

The Stock Judging School was inaugurated in 1907, which proved a most valuable feature. Some fifty high class animals were taken to the principal points throughout the Province, to be used for demonstration purposes in addresses by experts in the various branches. Poultry fattening stations have been established and a superintendent has done a great deal to encourage the farmers to supply to a greater extent the demands of the consumer for farm produce coming under this head. The Government creamery system which was commenced by the Dominion authorities

in the old territorial days was taken over by the Province and has been expanded to a remarkable degree. No branch yields larger or steadier returns and in the districts where the system has been taken advantage of it, has been the means of returning very considerable wealth to the man who has gone into dairying on any great scale. Nowhere are more prosperous or more contented settlers to be found than in the districts where dairying is strongly to the fore and the success that has attended this part of the Government's operations is admitted on all sides.

All this technical instruction that the Department has been giving is, it is understood, preliminary to the establishment of an agricultural college, just as soon as the interests involved develop to such an extent as to make it advisable to abandon these temporary expedients. In the meanwhile the latter are well suited to the present stage of the Province's growth and are accomplishing very much for the cause of good farming. Time will undoubtedly show the wisdom of this policy of having the Government feel its way up to the larger enterprises. The experience which its officials are obtaining will enable it to start an Agricultural College along such lines as will best promote the objects in view. The farmers will be brought by gradual stages to appreciate the value of such an institution. Lastly a large present expenditure is avoided. Just as soon, however, as the agricultural interests express a desire that the larger project should be gone on with, the government is prepared to take it up without delay. Incidentally it should be mentioned, that substantial aid is now given to young Albertans who desire to take a course at an Eastern Agricultural College. To aid the farmer in improving the quality and the quantity of his output, however, does not comprehend the whole of the Department's activity. There are plenty of farmers in Alberta who can hold their own so far as technical knowledge goes with any one who might be brought to instruct them. The great difficulty that such men have is not to raise the best of grain and cattle, but to dispose of it profitably. One of the great problems to be solved is that of markets and everything feasible has been done to improve these. The commission which two years ago was appointed to investigate the situation in respect to

beef and pork made several important recommendations which are likely to place these branches on a much more satisfactory basis. One of the results of that commission's report was the appointment of a Provincial Live Stock Commissioner. For that post a practical farmer was chosen, a man who has been through the mill himself and thoroughly understood what was required. His duties have been to aid the farmer in every possible way in finding a market for his stock, and those who have taken advantage of his services have not been at all backward in bearing testimony to the splendid work which he has been able to do.

Alberta has in the past suffered very greatly on account of the difficulty in securing a satisfactory market for her farm products. But there are many signs that we are now on the verge of a new era in this respect. The opening up of trade by way of the Pacific will effect a veritable revolution, while other projects are apparently on the verge of realization, which the Government has been working upon and which will do much towards the introduction of what will mean the dawning of a brighter day for those who constitute the backbone of any people and whose interests, particularly in a new country, should be ever kept strictly to the fore. Much has already been done for the farmer but it will appear but slight in comparison with what will be accomplished if the Government is enabled to carry out the various plans to completion, on which it is at present working.—Calgary Albertan.

